ABSTRACT

A walking brace for immobilizing and/or protecting the lower leg of a patient comprises a leg portion adapted to fit substantially around the lower leg of a patient and a sole portion that fits beneath the patient's foot. The sole portion is provided with a dual layer of resilient shock absorbing material disposed along its bottom surface. The dual layer comprises an upper layer of a relatively softer material and a lower layer of a relatively more durable material. The dual layer can provide good shock absorbency but can be made thinner to provide a lower profile. In another aspect of the invention, the walking brace is provided with one or more inflatable air cells to provide adjustable therapeutic pressure to the leg and the leg portion of the brace is in the form of a rigid shell provided with a protruding region for receiving the air cell outlet associated with each air cell such that the air cell outlet is directed toward the front of the walking brace for easy access by the user. In yet another aspect of the invention, the rigid shell member of the leg portion is provided with one or more longitudinal slits that allow expansion of the leg portion to accommodate an enlarged lower leg portion of a patient. The expanded leg portion can accommodate users with enlarged lower limbs, such as those suffering from severe edema.